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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of :
Tilman Abel et al :
Application No. 10/661,191 : DECISION GRANTING PETITIONS
Filed: September 12, 2003 : UNDER 37 CFR 1.313(c)(2)
Attorney Docket No. 2001P03156WOUS : AND 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3)

This is a decision on the petition, filed May 18, 2005 and supplemented on May 19, 2005, under 37 CFR 1.313(c)(2) to withdraw the above-identified application from issue after payment of the issue fee. This is also a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3), filed May 6, 2005, and supplemented on May 19, 2005, to accept an unintentionally delayed claim under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and 365(c) for the benefit of priority to prior-filed PCT Application No. PCT/EP02/02023, filed February 25, 2002.

The petitions are **GRANTED**.

DISCUSSION OF PETITION UNDER 37 CFR 1.313(c)(2)

As requested by petitioner, the above-identified application is withdrawn from issue for consideration of a submission under 37 CFR 1.114 (request for continued examination). See 37 CFR 1.313(c)(2).

Petitioner is advised that the issue fee paid on February 25, 2005 in the above-identified application cannot be refunded. If, however, the above-identified application is again allowed, petitioner may request that it be applied towards the issue fee required by the new Notice of Allowance.¹

DISCUSSION OF PETITION UNDER 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3)

A petition for acceptance of a claim for late priority under 37

¹ The request to apply the issue fee to the new Notice may be satisfied by completing and returning the new Issue Fee Transmittal Form PTOL-85(b), which includes the following language thereon: "Commissioner for Patents is requested to apply the Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if any) or re-apply any previously paid issue fee to the application identified above." Petitioner is advised that, whether a fee is indicated as being due or not, the Issue Fee Transmittal Form must be completed and timely submitted to avoid abandonment. Note the language in bold text on the first page of the Notice of Allowance and Fee(s) Due (PTOL-85).

CFR 1.78(a)(3) is only applicable to those applications filed on or after November 29, 2000. Further, the petition is appropriate only after the expiration of the period specified in 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(ii). In addition, the petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) must be accompanied by:

- (1) the reference required by 35 U.S.C. § 120 and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(i) of the prior-filed application, unless previously submitted;
- (2) the surcharge set forth in § 1.17(t); and
- (3) a statement that the entire delay between the date the claim was due under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(ii) and the date the claim was filed was unintentional. The Commissioner may require additional information where there is a question whether the delay was unintentional.

The instant nonprovisional application was filed after November 29, 2000, and the claim herein for the benefit of priority to the above-noted, prior-filed PCT application is submitted after expiration of the period specified in 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(ii). Therefore, this is a proper petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3).

The petition complies with the requirements for a grantable petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) in that (1) a reference to the above-noted, prior-filed PCT application has been included as an amendment to the first sentence of the specification following the title, as provided by 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(iii); (2) the surcharge fee required by 37 CFR 1.17(t) has been submitted; and (3) the petition contains a proper statement of unintentional delay. Accordingly, having found that the instant petition for acceptance of an unintentionally delayed claim for the benefit of priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and 365(c) to the above-noted, prior-filed PCT application satisfies the conditions of 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3), the petition is granted.

The granting of the petition to accept the delayed benefit claim to the prior-filed application under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) should not be construed as meaning that the instant application is entitled to the benefit of the prior-filed application. In order for the instant application to be entitled to the benefit of the prior-filed application, all other requirements under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and 365(c) and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(1) and (a)(2) must be met. Similarly, the fact that the corrected Filing Receipt accompanying this decision on petition includes the prior-filed

application should not be construed as meaning that applicant is entitled to the claim for benefit of priority to the prior-filed application noted thereon. Accordingly, the examiner will, in due course, consider this benefit claim and determine whether the instant application is entitled to the benefit of the earlier filing date.

A corrected Filing Receipt, which includes the priority claim to the prior-filed PCT application, accompanies this decision on petition.

Any inquiries concerning this decision may be directed to the undersigned at 571-272-3218. All other inquiries concerning either the examination procedures or status of the application should be directed to the Technology Center.

This application is being forwarded to the examiner of Technology Center Art Unit 3641 for processing of the RCE filed on May 18, 2005, and for appropriate action on the amendment filed May 19, 2005, including consideration of applicant's entitlement to claim benefit of priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and 365(c) to the above-noted, prior-filed PCT application.


Frances Hicks

Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions
Office of the Deputy Commissioner
for Patent Examination Policy

ATTACHMENT: Corrected Filing Receipt